

DEBRA FERGUSON, Ph.D. COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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BIOSKETCH

Debbie Smith, MS is the Director of Training Center Discharges and Community Integration. She has been with DBHDS since 2010 and has assisted with the development of the discharge process through her work in various roles. She provides oversight for the discharge process as approved for implementation to meet requirements of the DOJ Settlement Agreement with the State of Virginia.

Deb has also served as the Deputy Director of Training Center Discharges, assisting the prior Director with oversight, and providing technical assistance to DBHDS staff, families and community partners. She was formerly a DBHDS Community Integration Manager at SVTC, where she assisted with the development of the current discharge process. She has also served as a Family Resource Consultant within the Office of Developmental Services, developing a



foundation for connecting families to resources for support and exploring community options while identifying systems change needed to build community capacity. Prior to DBHDS, Deb served as Director of ID services for Crossroads CSB. She has worked within the Developmental Disability System for the past 30 years.

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